

Biden Administration Announces \$80 Million in Workforce Training Grants

This week, the Department of Labor (DOL) [announced](#) the availability of \$80 million in funding through its Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. According to the Biden Administration, the grants will enable partners in the public and private sectors to develop or scale workforce training programs to prepare job seekers in advanced manufacturing; information technology; and professional, scientific, and technical service occupations that support renewable energy, transportation, and broadband infrastructure sectors.

Nonprofits, labor organizations, public and state institutions of higher education, economic and workforce entities, and state, county and local governments may apply for grants ranging from \$500,000 to \$5 million. Applicants must choose one of the following tracks for this grant program:

- Development track: Establishes local and regional partnerships that will implement new sector-based training programs across infrastructure-related sectors.
- Scaling track: Expands an existing local or regional training partnership model, with demonstrated success in a specific infrastructure-related sector, to the state or national level.

Pending availability of funds, the department intends to make a total of approximately \$200 million available for the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant program over multiple competitive rounds of funding.

DOL to Host Online Forum on Workplace Compliance Issues

The Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division will be hosting an online forum for employers and contractors that will include panel discussions on compliance with federal laws governing wages and other workplace issues from May 2nd-3rd. The forum will include representatives of the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Benefits Security Administration, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Occupational Safety Health Administration, Veterans' Employment Training Service, Wage and Hour Division and the Women's Bureau.

Also attending will be representatives of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, IRS, National Labor Relations Board and the Small Business Administration. During the forum, agency representatives will make presentations, ranging from 30 to 90 minutes. [Attendance is free, but registration is required.](#)

Arkansas Storm Victims Qualify for IRS Tax Relief

The Internal Revenue Service recently [announced](#) that Arkansas storm victims now have until July 31, 2023, to file various federal individual and business tax returns and make tax payments. The IRS is offering relief to any area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of tornadoes and severe storms that occurred on March 31. This means that individuals and households that reside or have a business in Cross, Lonoke and Pulaski counties qualify for tax relief. Other areas added later to the disaster area will also qualify for the same relief. The current list of eligible localities is always available on the [disaster relief](#) page on IRS.gov.

The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting on March 31, 2023. As a result, affected individuals and businesses will have until July 31, 2023, to file returns and pay any taxes that were originally due during this period.

